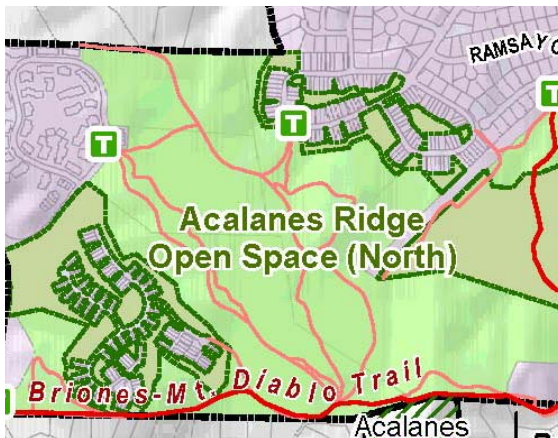


OPEN SPACE VISION PROJECT REPORT APPENDICES



June 2008

Prepared for:



CITY OF
WALNUT
CREEK

Prepared by:



**Open Space Vision Project Report
Appendices**

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Overview and Analysis

Participation

The level of the participation in the workshops (74) and survey (130) was small relative to Walnut Creek population, but the response was still rich in a range of ideas and viewpoints. The relatively low response can also be seen as an indication that people are generally happy with the open space system. If there were major public issues this is likely to have been reflected in higher attendance given the efforts to publicize the Visioning Project.

There are a high number of surveys submitted by the same people who attended the workshops – thus there is a significant repetition of the same comments. But the survey did allow many more people to participate.

Additional community participation will occur in conjunction with the Task Force’s report to the PROS Commission and any consideration by the City Council; through subsequent subject-specific studies and plans, and through some of the public information and program ideas suggested by participants. Greater participation may occur at these stages because people are more likely to respond to specific proposals than a general call for input.

One option in conjunction with future work, such as an acquisition/funding plan, may be a statistical phone survey of residents’ awareness and appreciation of the open space (e.g. do they appreciate it as growth management, environmental protection, and/or viewshed even if they don’t use it?).

Overall Trends

When the comments from the workshops and survey are organized by category, some clear trends emerge.

There is a strong correlation between the public comments and the policies and actions outlined in the 2006 General Plan with regard to plans and actions to protect resources, studies and plans of public use and ways to manage it, and planning for additional acquisitions:

- **Action 1.1.1. Prepare and adopt a plan for the protection and management of open space lands.**
- **Action 1.3.3. Review and update existing policies for open space activities and monitor their effectiveness.**
- **Policy 2.1. Develop a plan for acquiring additional lands or easements.**

The responses are also consistent with the original 1974 Open Space Policy emphasis on protection over use, as evidenced by the large number of comments related to Natural Habitat/Resource Protection and Preservation Priority (basically keeping it like it is).

1. Preservation Priority

- Overall, residents are very appreciative of their open space and generally like it the way it is, with minimal formal development.

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- This was the most frequent consistent comment category, and is a theme that runs through other comment categories.
2. Public Facilities
- Trails are the most desired facilities, including opening single track trails to, or exclusively for, bicyclists.
 - There were many comments calling for limiting, reducing or even removing specific development features such as roads, parking, water tanks, antennas, camping and picnic facilities.
 - There were comments calling for amenities such as benches, trash receptacles, restrooms and drinking water, and for repair or improvement of features such as gates.
 - There was some support and no opposition for maintaining existing historic structures.
 - There was opposition, and little support, for major changes and improvements such as parking, camping and picnic areas.
3. Public Use
- The most frequent comments supported hiking, bicycling and equestrian trails.
 - A significant number of comments called for studies and management of public use to protect resources and balance different uses, consistent with the overall Preservation Priority.
 - There is some interest in education and enforcement regarding equestrian use during or after wet weather
 - Interest was expressed in a study or plan on the need for the current preserve trail system, and needs and opportunities for connecting trails between open space areas. This relates strongly to comments regarding Access (new connections to neighborhood access points, handicapped access improvements, cooperative parking areas.
 - There weren't significant issues about public use or demands for new uses, other than the comments specific to cattle, dogs and bikes outlined separately.
4. Cattle/Grazing
- There were a relatively large number of comments regarding the impacts of cattle grazing. This is the most significant single issue for the Open Space system.
 - A scientific study of the impacts and alternatives is desired/indicated.
 - As a public opinion test, the workshops and survey showed opinions about cattle to be overwhelmingly negative.
5. Public Information/Outreach/Signs
- There were a significant number of comments calling for more/better trail signs and information or regulation signs, although some comments opposed more signs.
 - There were calls for more published and posted information and outreach and education to users and neighbors.
 - These objectives are primarily staff responsibilities that are being or can be addressed through efforts of existing staff, but they also reflect a need for additional staff and volunteer time to provide more information and coordination.

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6. Natural Habitat/Resource Protection

- In addition to support and appreciation for natural vegetation and wildlife there were a number of comments calling for a plan for managing natural resources. A grazing study/plan would be closely related to such a plan, as would efforts to manage invasive plants.
- Many people appreciate the Open Space for off-site benefits such as views and general environmental protection.
- These comments support the overall theme of Preservation Priority.

7. Dogs

- Dog access is an important benefit for a significant number of people.
- There is a desire for some review of dog access areas and regulations, along with a program of education and enforcement, potentially combined with a dog owners group or volunteer patrol.

8. Acquisition

- There is moderate support for acquiring more open space and habitat or trail corridors.
- This relates to comments under Natural Resources and Public Facilities, Trails calling for connections between open space areas

9. Public Access

- Some of these issues involve minor adjustments to existing access points, or coordination to protect them, which can generally be handled by existing staff.
- There is interest in new and improved parking, connections from neighborhoods to trailheads, and more points of entry. This theme relates to interest in expansion and study of the existing trail system under Public Facilities and Public Use.

10. Maintenance

- Attention to erosion and drainage were most frequently mentioned.
- These are generally minor operation and maintenance issues that can be addressed by staff.

11. Staffing

- There is a demand for more ranger presence for public safety and rules enforcement, and for more maintenance staff.
- This relates to comments regarding Public Information and Outreach, Public Access, Maintenance, Accommodating Young People and Nature Programs, which are existing staff responsibilities, but additional staff would be required to respond to the collective public comments.

12. Funding

- Demand for additional funding is relatively weak considering this is a group that would tend to be supportive of more open space and funding.
- However, a significant number of other comments specifically called for additional acquisition of open space land and easements, connection of habitat areas and trail corridors, and preventing encroachment of development, and the General Plan calls for a plan for acquiring additional land or easements.
- A report and recommendation about the public's vision needs to underscore the need for additional funding to achieve it, and specific links between funding and goals.

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13. Bikes

- There is some demand for more access to bicycles, especially on single track trails, which is reflected by comments under Public Facilities and Public Use.
- There is concern about enforcement of bicycle rules, but this is not a major issue.

14. Accommodating Young People

- There is a strong link between the desire for additional youth programs and basic comments about Nature Programs, and comments about.
- Current programs are very successful in accommodating youth, and demand exceeds available space.
- These objectives in turn reinforce comments on the need for additional staffing, as do comments on Information, Outreach and Maintenance.

15. Nature Programs

- Comments call for more programs, involving volunteers, and more coordination with other organizations and programs.

16. General

- Residents love and use their Open Space!

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Categorized Comments

In the workshop comments “*” or “votes” are comments agreeing with prior comment. They are counted as an additional comment.

In the survey comments “mentions” are the number of times a subject was mentioned in comments regarding respondents’ favorite features.

1. Preservation Priority/Nature Experience *Minimal development in Open Space – keep it like it is.* (73 comments plus 47 mentions)

From the workshops (22 comments):

- a. Preserve versus reserve
- b. **Preservation higher priority than activities
- c. Proper protection in the General Plan
- d. We like it the way it is. How do we keep it like this?
- e. *Sustainability is key
- f. Keep open space natural – no development
- g. Keep distinction between parks and open space – not growth inducing
- h. Maintain passive open space uses
- i. Change “recreation” designation
- j. Leave the Open Space Alone – the way it is. Don’t develop the Open Space. No trail signs or unobtrusive signs (just use map). No visual clutter.
- k. Don’t turn the Open Space into Disneyland (don’t overdevelop).
- l. The Open Space is perfect the way it is.
- m. Don’t develop any more of the Open Space (picnic areas, campgrounds, etc.). No large developed areas.
- n. Minimize development in adjacent Open Space. Protect trailhead development around Snyder from encroachment.
- o. Keep parklands like they are.
- p. What do we do for the next 20 years? Don’t changes uses (2 votes).
- q. Natural resources are priority. Leave it alone, no major development (e.g. picnic areas, fire pits, turf or lawn – not a typical park). Don’t allow any development (4 votes).
- r. Don’t add any other developed use sites. Keep what we have, just don’t add any others.
- s. Remain what it is – no recreational improvements; no more services to non-residents
- t. Preserving and maintaining the natural state – natural experience
- u. Trails: Don’t turn Open Space into a park.
- v. No further development.

From the survey (51 comments plus 47 mentions):

- a. pristine, natural
- b. Being in tune with nature, the seasons
- c. able to walk in an area with a lot less air pollution
- d. Peace and Quiet. NO CARS
- e. exercise, meditation, dog walking, picnics...
- f. increases the quality of our lives
- g. Natural beauty of area
- h. you can just go and think and let everything go.

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- i. appreciation of nature
- j. leave it as natural as possible/as is (5 votes)
- k. Just DON'T sell or develop it. That's the most important thing.
- l. There are already enough trails to allow public to use open space
- m. Maintain the hills as they have always been.
- n. Less change.
- o. Leave just as it is
- p. no more building of McMansions up close
- q. Perfect the way they are!
- r. No changes
- s. try to leave them as natural as possible
- t. I like it the way it is
- u. no change
- v. Not much
- w. I like it as it is
- x. I can't think of any--it's darn near perfect and we're so lucky people cared enough to push for this Paradise in our back yard instead of letting it be developed as nearly happened in the 1970s
- y. good as it is
- z. no change
- aa. It's great the way it is.
- bb. Good as is
- cc. SIMPLY MAINTAIN AS IS
- dd. I am content with the Open Space as it is.
- ee. I like it the way it is.
- ff. Nothing, just keeping on preserving it, instead of building houses on it.
- gg. no change
- hh. I would like to keep it the same
- ii. leave it as natural as possible
- jj. No changes.
- kk. I like it fine the way it is.
- ll. Don't develop open space
- mm. No changes are needed
- nn. I love the untouched wildness: oaks, streams, coyotes, bobcats, great horned owls, eagles---we have it all (favorite things)
- oo. the oaks, the wild grasses -- the small animals that frequent the area, the hawks. (favorite things)
- pp. All areas make me feel like I'm way out of the city, and it's relaxing, refreshing and rejuvenating. (favorite things)
- qq. experience the natural beauty of Walnut Creek (and California, for that matter) while escaping the noise of urban/suburban living. (favorite things) (favorite things)
- rr. preservation of natural beauty of area (favorite things)
- ss. It is a place to enjoy nature, to walk, to take the dog, and for complete peace and quiet. (favorite things)
- tt. It's peaceful and regenerative to be so close to nature. The quiet is spectacular. (favorite things)
- uu. I can walk a few yards and have a wilderness experience. I can't even tell I am in a dense urban area. (favorite things)
- vv. Having an area in busy Walnut Creek in which an area has been preserved for enjoying nature. It's quiet and has been used as intended thus far. (favorite things)

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- ww. Like to ruggedness and 'unkempt' feeling, so we can truly appreciate the seasons and changes due to rain, and temperature. I love that I feel a million miles away from 'the world' when I'm out in the open space. (favorite things)
- xx. Peaceful and interesting places to walk (favorite things)
- yy. we've spotted wild animals and saw the pond full of frogs. (favorite things)

2. Public Facilities *Adding, improving or reducing specific facilities and features.* (84 comments plus 23 mentions)

Trails (27 comments plus 2 mentions)

From the workshops:

- a. Create opportunities for alternative education experiences (e.g. guided trails at Shell Ridge).
- b. Appreciation trail – idea for providing access
- c. Trails: Gravel strips on muddiest areas.
- d. Access/trails – good access; additional trails needed

From the survey:

- a. more trails for hikers (2 mentions)
- b. Trails, so more areas of Open Space can be enjoyed
- c. Improve access & connections at Coastanoan & Hanna Grove Trails.
- d. Open a loop trail in Sugar Loaf on the west side so the lower trail by the freeway doesn't end at a dead end
- e. more walking (not horse) trails
- f. More route variety for hiking/dog walking
- g. narrow single file trails allow closer views of nature
- h. hiking and walking
- i. More access to more intricate parts of the trail and access to nature
- j. more single track trails for hikers/runners ONLY; more sign posts along trails
- k. biking
- l. Need a connector trail from the Iron Horse to Sugarloaf
- m. bike trails
- n. single-track for mountain bikers only.
- o. more trails.
- p. Well maintained trails for running and biking,
- q. more trails opened to cyclists, single-track access
- r. Adding trails.
- s. More single tracks to be opened to mountain bikes.
- t. Provide more connections between trails and surface more trails to provide easier use for those past middle age
- u. more trailheads
- v. better quality of trails in Shell Ridge,
- w. more trails

Limit/Reduce Development (20 comments plus 4 mentions)

From the workshops:

- a. Monopole at Lime Ridge or other sites – limit Open Space use for commercial.

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- b. Water tank removed from Lime Ridge.
- c. **Don't commercialize activity areas like Borges Ranch
- d. Keep Borges Ranch cozy; don't overdevelop.
- e. Keep current drinking fountains in Open Space (Borges, trail heads), but don't add more.
- f. Share parking with other public facilities; don't build more
- g. No additional group camps (4 votes).
- h. No more paved roads.
- i. Don't expand picnic areas.
- j. No more parking lots.
- k. Development of Open Space with public projects needs to be monitored (e.g. Pine Tree Phone Antenna).
- l. Overuse/parking
- m. No new parking lots, trailheads, trails or development.

From the survey:

- a. Only make improvements to allow people with disabilities (aged) to enjoy the Open Space.
- b. Do not build anything in the open space
- c. I don't believe there is a reason to build more trails. There seems to be an adequate number of trails for the people using them.
- d. There are already plenty -- maybe too many.
- e. additional community facilities only near entrances where road access/parking areas exist.
- f. Keep the open space free of buildings, antennas and other things that don't fit the natural setting.
- g. Please don't build more picnic sites

Amenities (14 comments plus 11 mentions)

From the workshops:

- a. Recycling bins/trash cans at trailheads
- b. Trails: Park benches – more, for viewshed.
- c. Trails: Park benches on map.
- d. What do we do for the next 20 years? Need more benches.
- e. Add more benches – possibly memorial benches?

From the survey:

- a. Trash cans at trail heads/more trash cans (5 mentions)
- b. only drinking fountains
- c. Some type of telescopes, guide stations, maps
- d. It would be nice to have a trash can, one that looks natural by the corral off of Ridgestone Court.
- e. More garbage cans
- f. Picnic benches, more garbage cans, more water fountains
- g. Outhouses
- h. a few more benches
- i. Bathroom facilities in Shell Ridge, trailheads (6 mentions)

Infrastructure (8 comments)

From the workshops:

- a. Commercial water at Hannah Grove.

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- b. Sutherland water.

From the survey:

- a. Improve gates inside open space. Some are either hard or dangerous to open on horseback. The gates need to be a certain width and not have posts in front of them and easy to handle from 56 feet off the ground.
- b. More parking to reduce impact on neighbors.
- c. Improve gates-
- d. Make parking available at all trail heads.
- e. Sewer lines at Borges Ranch
- f. fences are ancient barbed wire and the gates are jerry-built.

Maintain Historic Structures (6 comments plus 2 mentions)

From the workshops:

- a. Borges Ranch 4-H concern on barn roof, gates.
- b. Protect deteriorating barn structure at Borges Ranch
- c. Carriage barn roof (Borges Ranch) needs repairs (leaks).
- d. Preserve historic structures and functions

From the survey:

- a. historic ranch structures are wonderful (2 mentions)
- b. Historic sites (favorite things)

Picnic, Camping (5 comments plus 4 mentions)

From the workshops:

- a. Walk-in group camp.

From the survey:

- a. Picnic benches, more garbage cans, more water fountains
- b. Outlying picnic tables in strategic locations/more tables (2 mentions)
- c. More picnic/group activity and camping areas (2 mentions)
- d. Picnic benches (Shell Ridge), more garbage cans, more water fountains

Other (4 comments)

From the workshops (3 comments):

- a. Howe: Trees/water
- b. Bob Pond/Deci Lake info – viable fishing area
- c. More farm animals.

From the survey (1 comment):

- a. pay some attention to the areas surrounding the flood basin

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3. Public Use *What should be allowed, how to manage?* (77 comments plus 28 mentions)

Uses Desired/Undesired (32 comments plus 28 mentions)

From the workshops:

- a. Bow hunting of deer/turkeys
- b. Hiking [a priority]
- c. Fire roads for bicycle use
- d. Preserve quiet – keep motorized vehicles out
- e. Keep vehicles on the perimeter of open space
- f. Maintain “open” multi-use nature of open space
- g. Trails specifically for bikes, horses, hiking.
- h. Keep “multi-use” for Open Space.
- i. People belong in open space and are compatible with restoration or preservation

From the survey:

- a. ride our horses without crossing dangerous streets
- b. mountain biking
- c. Mountain Biking and Hiking
- d. Horseback riding
- e. hiking
- f. Mountain Biking
- g. access to single-track for bicycles
- h. trails for mountain bikes
- i. recreation, hiking, biking
- j. mountain biking and multi-use
- k. single track mountain biking trails
- l. Limit commercial use,
- m. do not allow cars.
- n. Stop promoting it as a great running area for schools.
- o. The open space trails, although not very well maintained, are useful for running. (favorite things)
- p. Beautiful hiking areas (favorite things)
- q. Our trails are up and down and winding---with vistas around every turn. (favorite things)
- r. The trails throughout which provides great recreation for all of the residents. The connection to both EBRPD and State Parks land creating 20k + acres of open space. (favorite things)
- s. Twin Ponds Loop. I like the variety of the terrain and the hilliness. (favorite things)
- t. All the open trails have there own beauty, the beauty that each season brings to the various trails (favorite things)
- u. Ridge Top Trail Castle Rock Trail, Buckeye Ravine Trail, Summit Ridge, Fossil Hill Access to Mt. Diablo trails (favorite things)
- v. horseback riding. (favorite things)
- w. Trails off Hannah Grove gate as I can ride my horse there and access the full mountain. (favorite things)

Use Management (*see also comments re. Dogs, Bikes, Cattle*) (25 comments)

From the workshops:

- a. Horse droppings also need to be cleaned up. Horses should wear bags?

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- b. Wet weather use: When to use trails (dry enough?) – all users.
- c. Wet weather use: How to educate/manage.
- d. Equestrian use in wintertime on wet, muddy trails should not be allowed to due to trail damage.
- e. Support biking/manage horses/equestrians
- f. What would make more useful? Want limited access – permit. City/County cooperation needed
- g. Enforce existing rules
- h. Emphasize balance between preservation and programming
- i. Use with minimum impact
- j. Develop volunteer patrol (?) for Open Space.
- k. Dumping of animals at Borges.

From the survey:

- a. Keep smaller trails open in winter
- b. Safety on trails - routine monitoring of parking lots by PD
- c. protect entry locations
- d. Enforce regulations to keep mountain bikers off trails.
- e. Better enforcement of rules on trail use.
- f. not let homeowners block access gates and trails;
- g. Enforcing mountain bikers to yield to hikers.
- h. limiting equestrian use in very wet weather
- i. cyclists who use the narrow trails they shouldn't use.
- j. control the mountain bikers.
- k. active program to keep bicyclists on the trails they are approved to use
- l. Howe Homestead important for our burgeoning urban and suburban population
- m. park hours extended to evening, similar to EBRPD limits of 10 p.m.
- n. Develop a group of volunteers to monitor proper use of trails and protection of wildness.

Studies/Planning Needed (20 comments)

From the workshops:

- a. Suggestions: On-site “Use Study” on Open Space
- b. Need management plans
- c. Formal Trail Plan – do we need more/less?
- d. Evaluate uses at specific facilities (Howe Homestead) parking, access, fencing
- e. How to manage and balance trails uses, multi-use
- f. New ideas for shared use
- g. Recreation improvements out of plan – keep it interesting (?), attractive for a variety of users:
- h. Take [into account?]/evaluate need for all existing trails to maximize natural area
- i. Do we need all current trails?
- j. Establish better coordination between agencies (EBRPD/State Parks). Possibly work together on trail projects that join the agencies together. Work on a project involving Iron Horse Trail and canal trails.

From the survey:

- a. more multi-use trails, guidelines to allow mountain bikes into currently restricted trails
- b. Balance the trail system with the users and provide some alternative separation between incompatible user groups.
- c. So more people can enjoy them.

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- d. Open Single Track Trails to Bikers
- e. Specific areas should be provided for trail bike riding
- f. Keeping trails multi-use; promoting unity/camaraderie/knowledge among diverse trail user communities
- g. Support a multi-use philosophy
- h. To preserve what we have by limiting access to those on foot or bike.
- i. Opening up ridge trails to bikers
- j. system of specific use trails

4. Cattle/Grazing (55 comments)

From the workshops (33 comments):

- a. Cows are destructive to trails
- b. Review grazing practices – timing/frequency/goals
- c. Cows: Twin Ponds Loop/trail access area – selected areas for appropriate
- d. No bulls in Open Space.
- e. More limited areas.
- f. Limit cattle to Borges.
- g. Advantages vs. disadvantages = 50/50.
- h. Concern about calves being “skittish.”
- i. Cattle removed from all Open Space
- j. Cattle damage trails.
- k. Fewer cattle – impact on trails (damage).
- l. Benefits of grazing?
- m. Fire control?
- n. Habitat?
- o. What is cost of grazing – erosion, maintenance, fence, visual distractions, trail damage, liability.
- p. What would make Open Space more useful? Tick problems, cow damage, etc.
- q. What’s bad? Cows.
- r. What’s bad? Damage in drainage areas.
- s. What do we do for the next 20 years? Eliminate grazing.
- t. What do we do for the next 20 years? No, keep horses and cows.
- u. Cattle grazing concerns – trail damage
- v. Modify policies so cattle have less impact on Open Space – timing, fencing, exclusions, protect riparian areas.
- w. Restoration projects to increase habitat, but still allow cattle.
- x. Get out of Open Space
- y. Bulls in Open Space
- z. Injuries to hikers/chasing (aggressive/dominant)
- aa. Cattle dung on trails
- bb. Cattle in smaller areas
- cc. Trail conditions – rainy
- dd. Cow and calf operation
- ee. Range management: numbers and timing of grazing
- ff. OK with present management
- gg. Cost/benefit analysis

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From the survey (22 comments):

- a. grazing damages roads and trails unless care is used for time of year
- b. grazing - no
- c. keep the cows from shell ridge from ruining the environment
- d. need to get rid of the cattle grazing!
- e. cows eliminated.
- f. Not allow cattle grazing
- g. Keep the cattle off Twin Ponds Loop.
- h. Reduce or eliminate cattle grazing.
- i. Cattle create some problem with droppings, trample a trail into deep mush after rain
- j. Keep the cows in the more remote areas.
- k. Reducing or discontinuing grazing practices.
- l. Immediately stop the seasonal cattle grazing.
- m. eliminate cows and impact from grazing;
- n. Prohibit all cattle grazing
- o. get rid of the cows
- p. Reducing the presence of cattle
- q. Control grazing
- r. close some more open space areas to grazing
- s. Why cows are allowed after rains?
- t. The use of open space for cattle grazing is controversial
- u. consult geologists or environmentalists about cows' impact
- v. My grandchildren are able to see the cows roaming (favorite things)

5. Public Info/Outreach/Signs (53 comments)

Signs (23 comments)

From the workshops:

- a. Adequate directional signs
- b. More information/rules of use
- c. Improve trail signage
- d. Want trail signs – need to improve the trail signs; easy to get lost without proper signs (2 votes).
- e. Trail signs needed
- f. No trail signs or unobtrusive signs (just use map). No visual clutter.
- g. *Clearly post horse/bike trails

From the survey:

- a. ALL trails need adequate and accurate markings
- b. Make Sure Routes are clearly pointed out
- c. Update & improve trail directions & signage.
- d. Make sure routes for trails are clearly pointed out
- e. Please, please, please upgrade and improve the trail signage in the park. It is non-existent in some places and map trail names do not match the signs that exist!
- f. prepare up to date trail maps as new trails are made (new map is very good!)
- g. updated trail maps.
- h. More signs regarding regulations,
- i. Improved signs

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- j. More signs to help you find trailheads
- k. Many signs are completely faded and many trails are unmarked.
- l. Better direction signs and markings.
- m. More trail signs and the availability of maps at the trailheads
- n. better signage on the trails
- o. Adequate trail signage.
- p. warning regarding the Rattlesnakes.

Public Information (16 comments)

From the workshops:

- a. More program postings in Nutshell
- b. Website posting
- c. Expand program advertising: Times/journal feature
- d. Improve website with educational issues.
- e. Post why certain users are restricted
- f. Fresh information/new events in kiosks
- g. Need better trailhead/parking info. Too confusing presently.
- h. Develop Open Space "courtesies" instead of rules (e.g. pick up after dogs, stay off muddy trails [horses], not bikes on sing tracks, etc.).
- i. Contact numbers in kiosks
- j. **Better publicity for volunteer opportunities
- k. Single track trails: Need better publicity.

From the survey:

- a. Some development in the quarry to educate about that industry. cattle raising educational signage/exhibit
- b. More information about the native plants and wildlife.
- c. Maps.
- d. distribute more flyers with directions and a list of activities.
- e. pamphlet-guided nature trails

Outreach/Education (14 comments)

From the workshops:

- a. Have rangers make personal contact with neighbors living near entrances
- b. Access Issues: Communication between users and neighbors and City staff
- c. Access Issues: Educate users to be sensitive to neighbors
- d. Education: Rangers emphasize in training sessions
- e. Education: Especially educating adults
- f. Education: Major public events to educated people on values, preservation
- g. More education for Open Space users (e.g. wildlife issues).
- h. Educate public about cats and their effect on birds, rodents, reptiles, wildlife. Not only feral cats, but pet cats
- i. Outreach education for people using Open Space
- j. Education outreach: Public

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- k. Have special meetings with school groups/PTA, bikers, equestrians, dog owners (guardians) – maybe together

From the survey:

- a. Convene user group meetings
- b. have one or more "events" to get bikers, hikers and horseback riders
- c. 1 time/year introductions to the open space for new users.

6. Natural Habitat/Resource Protection (51 comments plus 22 mentions)

Protect/Restore Native Vegetation (13 comments)

From the workshops:

- a. Health of woodlands need looking at
- b. Allow planting more trees to offset greenhouse gasses
- c. Seeing fewer wildflowers
- d. Long-term concerns: Preserve oak woodlands
- e. Continue with the habitat restoration projects – oaks, grasslands, etc.
- f. Open Space Foundation work
- g. Tree and native revegetation needed
- h. Continue protecting natural resources – oak restoration

From the survey:

- a. Preservation of Botanical and Zoological populations
- b. natural setting for our animals
- c. More habitat restoration.
- d. Restoration of areas of Lime Ridge
- e. habitat restoration activities.

Manage Invasive Plants (5 comments)

From the workshops:

- a. Puncture vine/goathead – noxious and invasive weeds – yellow star thistle
- b. Concern about non-native invasives (reduce) – yellow star thistle.
- c. Foster natives and discourage exotics.
- d. Weeds – need better control of weeds (Italian thistle, yellow star thistle).

From the survey:

- a. Cleaning out the thistle!

Wildlife (12 comments)

From the workshops (8 comments):

- a. Provide animal corridors – keep areas passable
- b. Wildlife corridors – important, observable wildlife
- c. Concerned deer are traveling out of Open Space
- d. Expand quail habitats.

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- e. Increased number of coyotes; OK with numbers of coyotes and mountain lions
- f. Reduce deer population; don't reduce deer and turkey population
- g. Would like to be able to see wildlife
- h. Survey of wildlife in Open Space

From the survey (4 comments):

- a. Preservation of Botanical and Zoological populations
- b. Provide animal corridors
- c. My favorite Open Space area is the "Frog Pond" because I like to catch all the little frogs. (favorite things)
- d. encounters with wildlife (coyote, hawks, various other bird species) (favorite things)

Environmental Benefit *General/off-site – reduce pollution, manage growth, views, etc.* (9 comments plus 22 mentions)

From the survey:

- a. The views from the ridges are a treat. (favorite things)
- b. I like the view of shell ridge from Northgate High School. It is beautiful, and one can obtain an excellent view the city from the hills. (favorite things)
- c. WC is set off from surrounding cities with our own identity (favorite things)
- d. Escaping congestion
- e. Reducing Urban Heat Island
- f. vegetation takes in co2 gives off o2
- g. No housing on the Open Space
- h. flood control benefits, greenhouse gas benefits None. I would hate to see the OS get too crowded
- i. enhance the visual beauty of Walnut Creek.

Planning and Management

From the workshops (9 comments):

- a. Manage as preserve: Native plants; habitat/animals
- b. Nothing in current plan to preserve/restore wild habitat
- c. Focus on restoring "natural conditions" (define). Study history; natives.
- d. Preserve/restore "wild conditions" of 200 years ago – "Wildlife Museum."
- e. Connect watershed management with Open Space management
- f. Suggestions: Incorporate creeks with Open Space for connectivity
- g. Plants and animal resource management plan needed
- h. Conservation – management
- i. Steps to protect wildlife and natural resources and habitat

From the survey (2 comments):

- a. clean up creeks/ravines of dumped garbage
- b. coordinate with the other protectors/managers of natural environment/parkland

Cultural Resources

From the workshops (1 comment):

- a. Protect Native American archaeology

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7. Dogs (34 comments plus 13 mentions)

From the workshops (16 comments plus 13 mentions):

- a. Howe Homestead – dogs getting out of hand; not closing at dusk
- b. chase wildlife
- c. owner responsibility
- d. “rule of reason”
- e. dogs should remain
- f. consistent rules
- g. cleanup after dog
- h. Dog waste bag dispensers at trail entrances
- i. Dogs not under control.
- j. Dogs disturbing wildlife.
- k. Sutherland – dog feces not being cleaned by owners. Install dog mitts.
- l. People/dog owners need to clean up after their dogs (droppings). Especially on the
- m. trails.
- n. Enjoy dogs off leash
- o. Pet waste – clean up from owners
- p. Separate leash/off leash/no dogs

From the survey (18 comments):

- a. off leash dog walking (4 votes)
- b. educate people to clean up after dogs
- c. deepen the ponds at S.R. for all year access--many dogs love a swim
- d. We should enforce the leash law for dogs in these wild and natural places. I have a large dog, but limit my dog's off leash to specified areas in parks, never in the open space where she could disturb wildlife.
- e. educate dog owners on what ""voice control"" really means.
- f. Enforce dog leash laws.
- g. dog walkers need to be reminded to pick up after their dogs.
- h. Maintenance to decrease waste from domestic animals (dogs).
- i. dogs on leash - not on so called 'voice commands'
- j. more responsible dog ownership
- k. Continuing problem with pet waste.
- l. many owners do not pick up after their dogs.
- m. Please preserve the off-leash dog rules of the areas.
- n. Please continue to permit off leash dog walking in areas that aren't built up.
- o. Is the year-round pond in Shell Ridge safe for dog swimming?
- p. Year-round pond in Shell Ridge (for dog swimming) (favorite things)
- q. The quiet, less-frequently used trails where I hike with my dog. We like ponds in the summer so she can cool off. (favorite things)
- r. dog-friendly trails with plastic bags for picking up waste (favorite things)

8. Acquisition of More Open Space (29 comments)

From the workshops (21 comments):

- a. We should acquire more open space if possible – even for parcels outside but adjacent to City Limits

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- b. Annex open space lands adjacent to Walnut Creek
- c. Preserve viewsheds – outside looking in
- d. Need key acquisitions
- e. Lime Ridge is an island; need better connections
- f. We need the connections to Mount Diablo State Park from Lime Ridge
- g. Pursue acquisition opportunities
- h. More connections between sites.
- i. Connection between Mangini/Lime Ridge/State Parks
- j. Connection Tice Valley – Olympic to Iron Horse.
- k. All funding money into land purchases. Purchase/save as much Open Space land as possible.
- l. Possibility for an Open Space trail connection between Shell Ridge and Lime Ridge Open Space
- m. Acquire land adjacent to Open Space.
- n. What do we do for the next 20 years? Acquire more Open Space (3 votes).
- o. Extend connectivity with wildlife corridors
- p. Increase or try to purchase more Open Space for our preserves (acquire more land parcels).
- q. Purchase more “urban open space” within City limits – Walnut Creek green belt Open Space through town.
- r. Increase Open Space: Safeway property; Acalanes; Heather Farm; EBMUD knoll at Sugarloaf and at Acalanes
- s. Pursue acquisition of lands
- t. Protect and expand open space
- u. Engage land acquisition specialists

From the survey (8 comments):

- a. 100 yard wide connecting band between the open space areas
- b. Emphasis on acquiring important parcels
- c. Buy more of it, stop encroachment of housing and
- d. Addition of property along Castle Rock Road - along Pine Creek
- e. I voted for acquiring more land because we have to buy it when it's available.
- f. Will luxury homes continue to infringe on the open space?
- g. Limit the encroachment of housing into the open space.
- h. Please keep up the good work and resist the amount of money developers throw at you

9. Public Access (24 comments)

From the survey (11 comments):

- a. Safe pedestrian access needed to some entrances (e.g. Marshall)
- b. Provide access to disabled
- c. Broaden support for other special access needs
- d. Trailheads: access; bicycle racks/lockers (BikeLink cards); parking
- e. Protect trailhead parking.
- f. La Casa Via parking
- g. Increase access gates – Perada
- h. Howe: Access
- i. Open Space access La Casa Via.
- j. What do we do for the next 20 years? More access points in some places.

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- k. What would make more useful? Parking (Sutherland)/access – neighborhood sensitivity. St. Mary's running as example.

From the workshops (13 comments):

- a. Need additional access pts from Northgate Area
- b. Better access to Shell Ridge
- c. more access points.
- d. safe trail access.
- e. Access from horse facilities on Northgate Rd.
- f. more parking near trailheads
- g. Provide a gate at the Layman Street trailhead to Sugarloaf.
- h. I'd use Lime Ridge more if it had better access to trailheads
- i. easier access to the open space.
- j. Pedestrian improvements on Marshall Drive
- k. improve the walking connection between the end of the Lafayette-Moraga Trail at Olympic and the Iron Horse Trail; modify some road segments to improve pedestrian safety.
- l. at the Marshall entrance, work with the School District to use their parking lot on evenings/weekends
- m. Present easy access from different locations. (favorite things)

10. Maintenance (24 comments)

From the workshops (13 comments):

- a. Trail maintenance – cows, erosion, bicycle ruts
- b. Quicker repairs to trail erosion, problems.
- c. Single track trails: Need better erosion maintenance
- d. Single track trails: Timing of trail work.
- e. Single track trails: Get more volunteers.
- f. What would make Open Space more useful? Better trail maintenance.
- g. More trail maintenance. Keep up with the maintenance.
- h. Discourage illicit gathering areas – drinking, smoking, litter
- i. Acalanes gate that was taken out replaced
- j. Improve trail maintenance: Cattle area after rain; posting cattle areas
- k. Improve trail maintenance: Entrance areas
- l. Improve grading/drainage of fire roads
- m. Improve trail maintenance: Trail markers

From the survey (11 comments):

- a. gravel more of main trails for wet weather walking
- b. protect entry locations; they are being blocked
- c. Limit spring/early summer trail grading
- d. stop using poison to maintain trails;
- e. in the more travelled areas --- cut down the foxtails in the summer.
- f. barbed wire that is not currently being used (for cattle purposes, etc.) be removed.
- g. Removal of fencing that is not needed for ongoing cattle operations.
- h. The fence between Sugar Loaf open space and Highway #680 is dilapidated.
- i. Great trail maintenance,
- j. homeowners block trails and gates with drainage systems, fences, concrete curbs

**City of Walnut Creek Open Space Vision Project
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- k. trails not very well maintained

11. Staffing (18 comments)

From the workshops (12 comments):

- a. Staff support and volunteers
- b. More ranger presence in open space
- c. Staff – vacation coverage, especially at Borges.
- d. More staff presence in Open Space, particularly on weekends.
- e. What would make more useful? Greater visible ranger presence
- f. More Open Space staffing to achieve goals outlines in these notes – maybe we can't afford?
- g. Increase ranger presence in and about Open Space.
- h. Open Space and Parks have their own department – not tied in with Public Services.
- i. Feels safe in the Open Space
- j. More maintenance staff
- k. Increase patrols: Volunteer walking, bike, horse
- l. Increase patrols: Trail monitor

From the survey (6 comments):

- a. more rangers (2 votes)
- b. Ranger presence, rules for horses
- c. more patrols by rangers and volunteers
- d. Better control over trails.
- e. If more improvements to the OS are made, the staff needs to be increased.

12. Funding (13 comments)

From the workshops (9 comments):

- a. **Renew Open Space bonds
- b. Existing plan has unfinished business. Complete projects – look for money to do it
- c. Do we need to find more/new funding sources to meet the needs of the Open Space (e.g. educational programs, staff limited due to funding issues)?
- d. Open Space is the crown jewel of Walnut Creek – should have higher priority for funding
- e. Look at areas in Open Space that could be developed to create revenue for the Open Space Program e.g. Lime Ridge (Rock Oak) could be sold to developers to build houses. Then use funding in the Open Space (1 vote).
- f. Increase (find) ways to find funding for the Open Space so we don't have to depend on the General Fund. Funding for habitat and restoration of native landscapes.
- g. Propose another bond for Open Space to provide funding for infrastructure and habitat protection (6 votes).
- h. Develop funding source to purchase more property.
- i. Create a "trail sponsor" program to get more funding for trails. Individuals pay to have one mile of trail under their name.

From the survey (4 comments):

- a. help fund the WCOSF and other organizations to educate the public re. natural surroundings;
- b. Establishing a permanent funding source.

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- c. Begin petitions for bonds to acquire, maintain and provide funds for delayed maintenance.
- d. allow benches and trails to be named (for a price)

13. Bikes (13 comments)

From the workshops (9 comments):

- a. Off-trail use by some bikers “not major problem”
- b. Make area for mountain bikes
- c. Remain open for mountain bikes (BTCEM, EBRPD)
- d. Single track as appropriate (EBRPD matrix) (National ranking)
- e. Old quarry areas may be appropriate for bicycles – not enforce laws/rules and regulations
- f. Bicycles – single track, rutting
- g. No bikes on single trail trails (3 votes).
- h. Bikes on single track – hazards.
- i. Consistent rules

From the survey (4 comments):

- a. bicyclists who use the Open Space simply to see how fast they can go, should go somewhere else
- b. Hiking to be free of the careless bicyclists
- c. Enforce regulations on mountain bike use of trails
- d. prevent mountain bike use on more fragile footpaths

14. Accommodating Young People (12 comments)

From the workshops (11 comments):

- a. Activities of younger generation changing use
- b. Kids love nature programs – night hikes
- c. More youth programs
- d. Engage potential users – youth
- e. Keep Borges Ranch available to 4-H. Great opportunities for children.
- f. Allow cow/steer or horse projects at Borges Ranch for 4-H projects.
- g. Long-term concerns: Educate teens using Open Space
- h. Develop programs with local schools and keep existing programs.
- i. Develop more contacts with young people – the next generation to adopt the Open Space.
- j. Education outreach: Schools/kids
- k. Expand program advertising: Schools

From the survey (1 comment):

- a. planning to establish a high school mountain biking club Access to Open Space areas is critical to the success of programs such as these.

15. Nature Programs (11 comments)

From the workshops (7 comments):

- a. **More education programs; include restoration activities
- b. Staff for programs
- c. Educational/how to protect, example: Post restoration areas –

**City of Walnut Creek Open Space Vision Project
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- d. Develop volunteer programs for trails, programs, public relations
- e. Working well: Borges Ranch programs
- f. Integrate the Open Space programs with the Shadelands programs.
- g. Try to tie the Open Space program with the current “green” movement.

From the survey (4 comments):

- a. WCOSF should work more closely with other knowledgeable organizations like the Lindsay Museum for better educational programs.
- b. More programs for families
- c. “get active” program throughout the city.
- d. partnering with institutions that provide classes, hikes and restoration opportunities

16. General (39 comments)

From the workshops (28 comments):

- a. Residents love and appreciate their open space
- b. Most of it works well – great experience
- c. Size and diversity are great!
- d. Connections are great between trails
- e. Uses: Equestrian trail
- f. Uses: Pleasant Hill 4-H
- g. Uses: Hiking
- h. What’s working well? Connectivity with other Open Space areas.
- i. What’s working well? Good response to problems by City (e.g. pigs).
- j. What’s working well? Easy access.
- k. How do you currently use Open Space? Dog walking.
- l. How do you currently use Open Space? Hiking (3 votes).
- m. How do you currently use Open Space? Birding.
- n. How do you currently use Open Space? Discovery.
- o. How do you currently use Open Space? Jogging.
- p. How do you currently use Open Space? Holiday walks.
- q. How do you currently use Open Space? Photos.
- r. How would you like to use Open Space? Horse riding.
- s. How would you like to use Open Space? Biking.
- t. How do we use? Walking with dogs
- u. How do we use? Hiking/mountain biking
- v. How do we use? Volunteer activities
- w. How do we use? Ranch days
- x. How do we use? Exploring nature
- y. How do we use? Photography
- z. How do we use? Picnicking
- aa. Current: hike – 6; run – 1 (+ 1 sometimes); biking – 1; dogs – 3
- bb. Overall happy with Open Space

From the survey (11 comments):

- a. So we can take advantage of the wonderful nature our region has.
- b. It is, without a doubt, my favorite part of Walnut Creek.

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- c. So more people can walk on the trails and see more of the open space that is provided to them. some people don't like leaving the trails so if there were more trails they could see more.
- d. more opportunities to explore hidden areas of the city
- e. So more people are exposed to the open space and learn to respect the environment
- f. I think the WC Open Space is the greatest enticement to living in WC
- g. I love the open spaces. It is part of what makes Walnut Creek a wonderful place to live. They provide a respite from our otherwise busy lives. I hope my replies count. I live about 50 feet south of the Walnut Creek boundary of Castle Hill Road.
- h. I love the open space, it is a great place to relax at, and a great place to get exercise. I hope that it can continue to be preserved instead of new housing coming in.
- i. It's a gift to have this land available for our pleasure. We are so lucky.
- j. small turnout for the meetings - large enough base to draw conclusions from? future users (20 or so years down the road) haven't attended the two meetings I've been at.
- k. As more and more areas are 'built up', we are so lucky to have the Walnut Creek Open Space lands!!

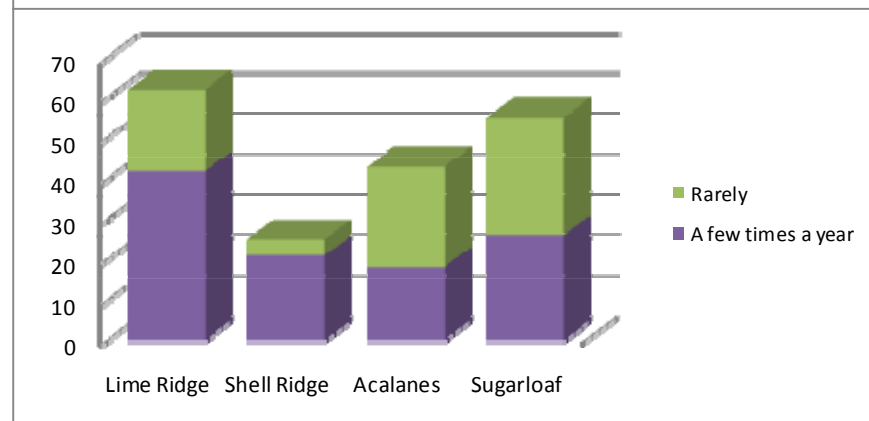
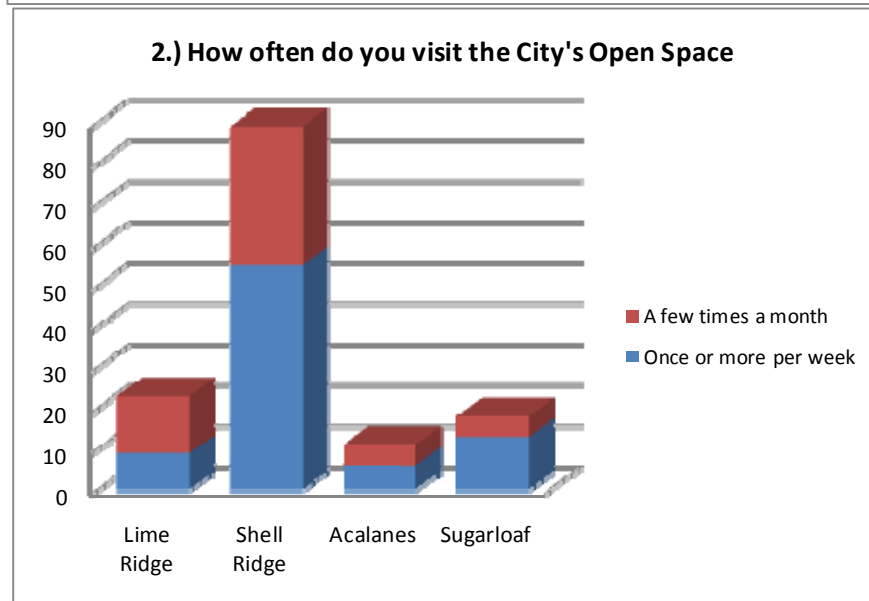
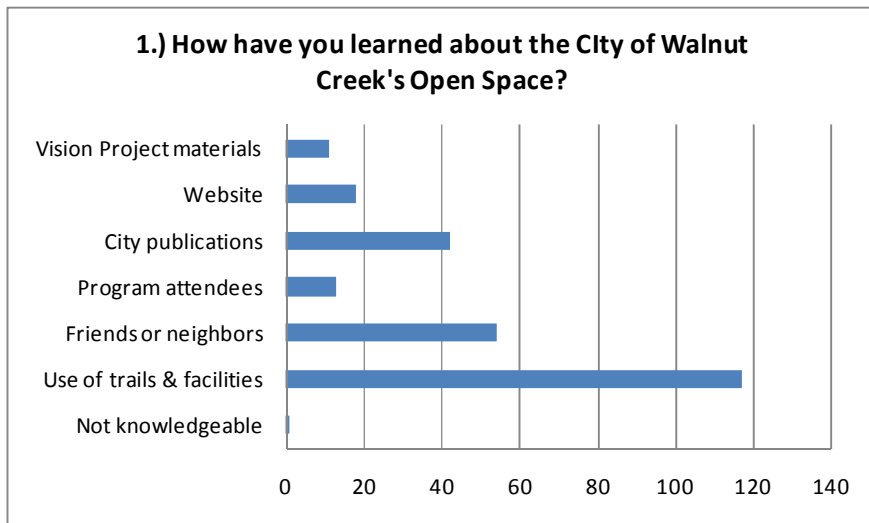
17. Other (2 comments)

From the workshops (2 comments):

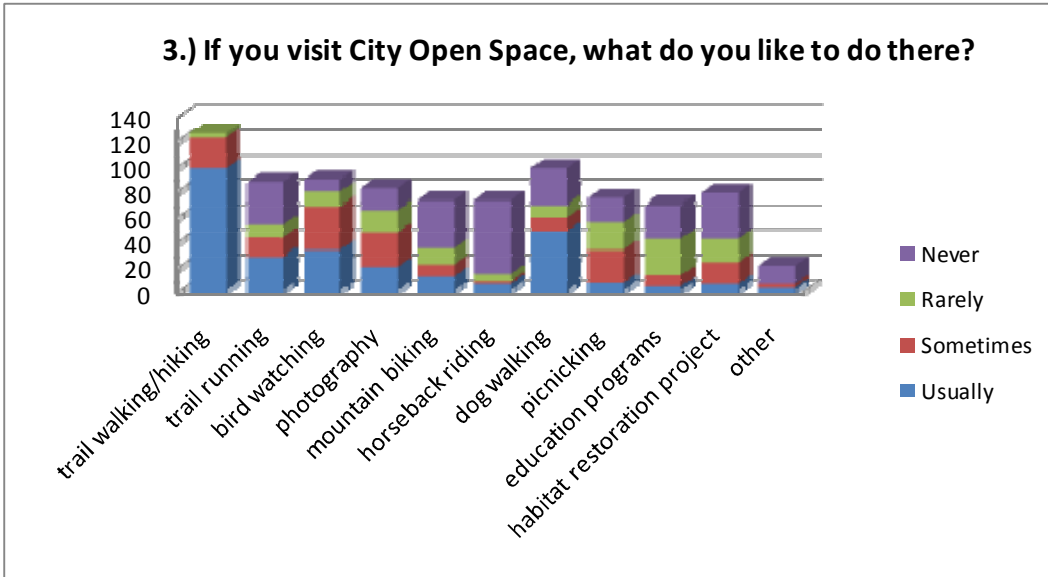
- a. Coordinate with Big. AD.(?) Committee
- b. Sutherland

City of Walnut Creek Open Space Vision Project Survey Results

Results of 130 Surveys (124 on-line; 6 written) Submitted between 10/25/07 and 2/20/08. Two surveys were excluded because they were from non-residents.



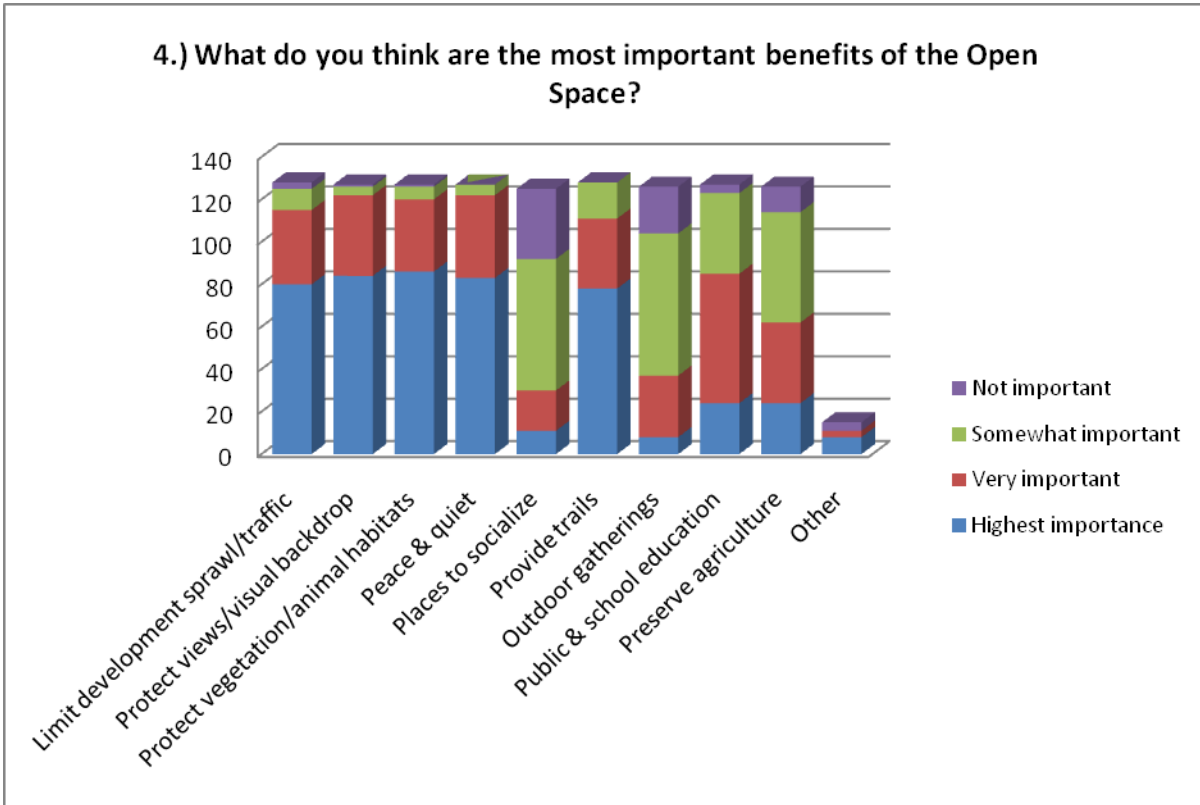
**City of Walnut Creek Open Space Vision Project
Survey Results**



3.) If you visit City Open Space, what do you like to do there? Write in other activities:

1. volunteer for events, painting
2. field trips with kid's class
3. help open sp. found.
4. rehab gates & kiosks
5. sunset watching
6. dog walking
7. drawing or painting beautiful scenes
8. Take our young grandchildren to explore
9. Daily I enjoy just looking at the beauty and the grazing cows
10. to escape the cities & Traffic
11. Camping
12. mudsliding
13. Noxious weed survey

**City of Walnut Creek Open Space Vision Project
Survey Results**

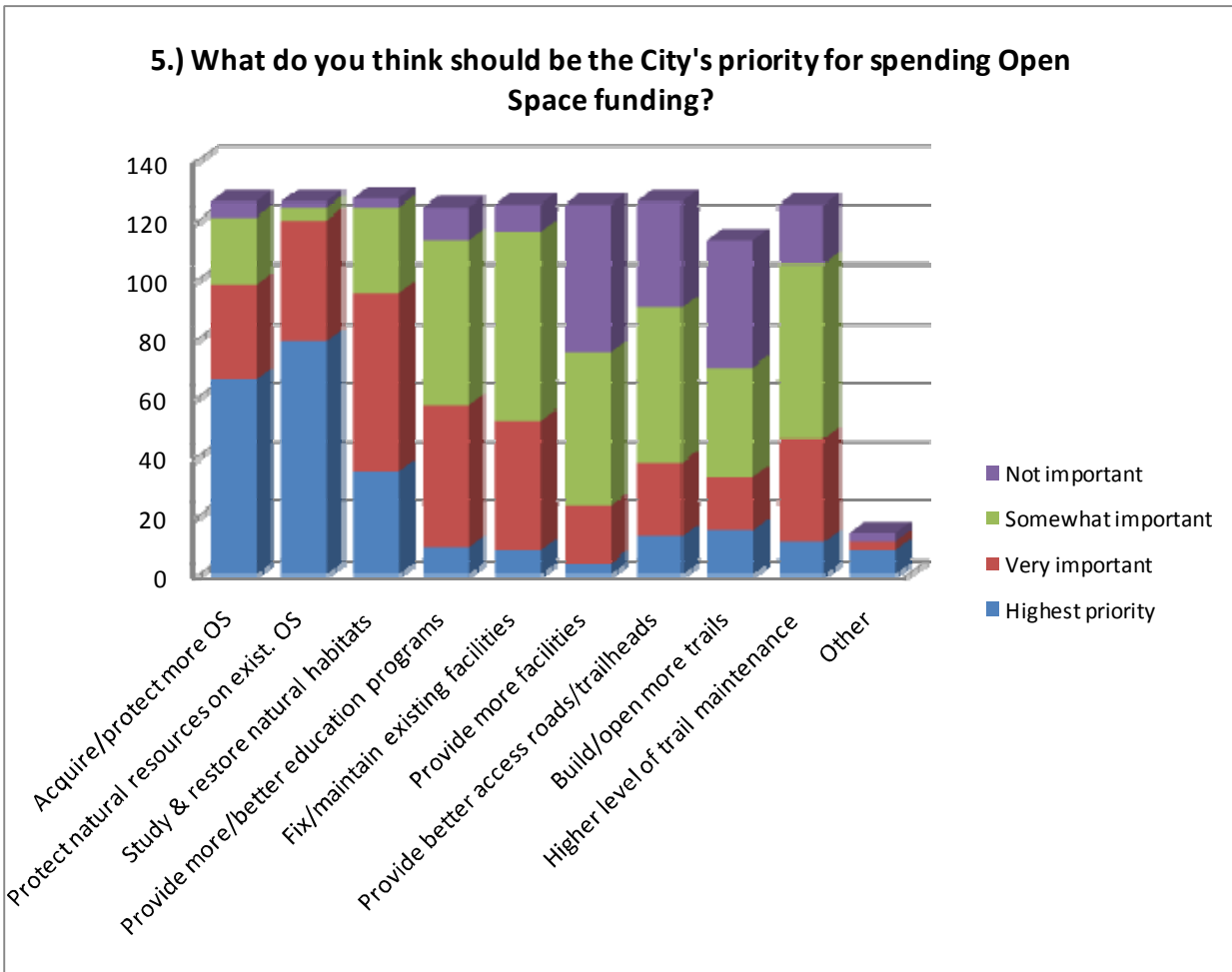


4.) What do you think are the most important benefits of the Open Space? Write in other benefits of Open Space:

1. keep it pristine, natural
2. Escaping Walnut Creek congestion
3. off leash area for dog walking
4. Reducing Urban Heat Island
5. vegetation takes in co2 gives off o2
6. historic ranch structures are wonderful, grazing damages roads and trails unless care is used for time of year
7. Preservation of Botanical and Zoological populations
8. the only place where we can ride our horses, every day, except Sunday -- from our house to the Open Space -- without crossing dangerous streets
9. Being in tune with nature, the seasons
10. able to walk in an area with a lot less air pollution
11. Peace and Quiet. NO CARS
12. No housing on the Open Space
13. Provide animal corridors
14. SO important to have this beautiful outlet available for anyone and everyone! for all reasons- exercise, meditation, dog walking, picnics...
15. unleashed dog areas
16. Unlike parks, open space provides a real and natural setting for our animals. It also increases the quality of our lives, as well as enhance the visual beauty of Walnut Creek.
17. Off Leash dog walking (site/voice control)
18. Natural beauty of area
19. Dog walking - off leash
20. An amazing place where you can just go and think and let everything go.

**City of Walnut Creek Open Space Vision Project
Survey Results**

- 21. historic ranch structures - yes; grazing - no
- 22. appreciation of nature
- 23. flood control benefits, greenhouse gas benefits



5.a) What do you think should be the City's priority for spending Open Space funding? Write in other facilities that should be provided:

- 1. None. I would hate to see the OS get too crowded
- 2. mountain biking
- 3. Mountain Biking and Hiking
- 4. None!
- 5. more multi-use trails, guidelines to allow mountain bikes into currently restricted trails
- 6. Outlying picnic tables in strategic locations to stop, chat and eat.
- 7. Horseback riding
- 8. none
- 9. Need additional access pts from Northgate Area
- 10. none - leave it as natural as possible
- 11. None. Access is good, Leave it as it is.
- 12. bathrooms at a trail head Sutherland -

**City of Walnut Creek Open Space Vision Project
Survey Results**

13. ALL trails need adequate and accurate markings. There needs to be directional signs at all trail heads indicating major areas where people park such as Indian Valley, Muirwood, Walnut Heights, Northgate. It is very easy to get lost on the trails and there needs to be more directional orientation.
14. Bathroom facilities in Shell Ridge
15. Just DON'T sell or develop it. That's the most important thing.
16. More restroom facilities at trail heads would be useful
17. hiking
18. gravel more of main trails for wet weather walking
19. more trails for hikers (single file)
20. garbage cans at trail heads
21. Trash cans @ trail heads
22. Restrooms would be nice.
23. only drinking fountains
24. provide more garbage cans
25. Sewer lines at Borges Ranch
26. More picnic and camping areas.
27. Make Sure Routes are clearly pointed out
28. Bathrooms (If Possible), Some type of telescopes, guide stations, maps
29. OUTHOUSES for us Seniors and trash cans for dog poop bags
30. Some development in the quarry to educate about that industry. Also, since cattle raising was an important historical aspect of this region some sort of educational signage/exhibit etc should be provided.
31. more picnic tables
32. there should be places for picnics and group activities.
33. trash and recycling bins
34. more rangers

5.b) What do you think should be the City's priority for spending Open Space funding? Write in reason to build/open more trails:

1. So more areas of Open Space can be enjoyed
2. Balance the trail system with the users and provide some alternative separation between incompatible user groups.
3. Mountain Biking
4. So more people can enjoy them.
5. access to single-track for bicycles
6. Improve access & connections at Coastanoan & Hanna Grove Trails.
7. trails for mountain bikes
8. recreation, hiking, biking
9. Open a loop trail in Sugar Loaf on the west side so the lower trail by the freeway doesn't end at a dead end
10. mountain biking and multi-use
11. multi-use means many of the trails are becoming less safe for riders. Some more walking (not horse) trails should be provided to limit the joggers, runners, dog walkers, bicyclists on the fire trails. Bicyclists who use the Open Space simply to see how fast they can go should go somewhere else.
12. Open Single Track Trails to Bikers
13. Do not build anything in the open space
14. single track mountain biking trails
15. So we can take advantage of the wonderful nature our region has.
16. Keep smaller trails open in winter

**City of Walnut Creek Open Space Vision Project
Survey Results**

17. There are already enough trails to allow public to use open space
18. More route variety for hiking/dog walking
19. narrow single file trails allow closer views of nature
20. hiking and walking
21. I don't believe there is a reason to build more trails. There seems to be an adequate number of trails for the people using them.
22. Specific areas should be provided for trail bike riding
23. Its is, without a doubt, my favorite part of Walnut Creek.
24. protect entry locations; they are being blocked
25. More access to more intricate parts of the trail and access to nature
26. Hiking to be free of the careless bicyclists
27. So more people are exposed to the open space and learn to respect the environment
28. So more people can walk on the trails and see more of the open space that is provided to them. some people don't like leaving the trails so if there were more trails they could see more.
29. Only to allow people with disabilities (aged) to enjoy the open space.
30. biking
31. Need a connector trail from the Iron Horse to Sugarloaf
32. more opportunities to explore hidden areas of the city
33. There are already plenty -- maybe too many.
34. more single track trails for hikers/runners ONLY; more sign posts along trails

5.c) What do you think should be the City's priority for spending Open Space funding? Write in other priorities:

1. Update & improve trail directions & signage.
2. Leave it alone - add more rangers
3. Keeping trails multi-use; promoting unity/camaraderie/knowledge among diverse trail user communities
4. WCOSF should work more closely with other knowledgeable organizations like the Lindsay Museum for better educational programs.
5. Improve gates inside open space. Some are either hard or dangerous to open on horseback. The gates need to be a certain width and not have posts in front of them and easy to handle from 56 feet off the ground.
6. Maintain the hills as the have always been.
7. educate people to clean up after dogs
8. Support a multi-use philosophy
9. Enforce regulations on mountain bike use of trails
10. deepen the ponds at S.R. for all year access--many dogs love a swim
11. We should enforce the leash law for dogs in these wild and natural places. I have a large dog, but limit my dog's off leash to specified areas in parks, never in the open space where she could disturb wildlife.
12. prevent mountain bike use on more fragile footpaths
13. keep the cows from shell ridge from ruining the environment
14. To preserve what we have by limiting access to those on foot or bike.
15. Cleaning out the thistle!
16. Safety on trails - routine monitoring of parking lots by PD
17. protect entry locations
18. Picnic benches (Shell Ridge), more garbage cans, more water fountains
19. Make Sure Routes for trials are clearly pointed out
20. Please, please, please upgrade and improve the trail signage in the park. It is non-existent in some places and map trail names do not match the signs that exist!
21. Ranger presence, rules for horses

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22. bike trails
23. clean up creeks/ravines of dumped garbage
24. prepare up to date trail maps as new trails are made (new map is very good!)

6.) What are your favorite Open Space areas or features, and why?

1. WC is set off from surrounding cities with our own identity
2. Shell Ridge hiking, Borges Ranch, Lime Ridge hiking. All areas make me feel like I'm way out of the city, and it's relaxing, refreshing and rejuvenating.
3. Shell Ridge and Lime Ridge, I appreciate the expanse and visual content of both of these open spaces. I am an avid mountain biker and truly enjoy the beauty of these areas and the exercise they provide me with their challenging terrain.
4. My favorite Open Space area is the "" Frog Pond"" because I like to catch all the little frogs.
5. The open space trails, although not very well maintained, are useful for running.
6. Favorite Open Space Area: Shell Ridge (due to its close proximity to my home and Mt. Diablo State Park). Features: Trails, natural vegetation, wildlife. Reasons: The Open Space areas allow one to experience the natural beauty of Walnut Creek (and California, for that matter) while escaping the noise of urban/suburban living. I can't imagine living in this area without the Open Space areas.
7. Dog walking off leash
8. All of Shell Ridge is a favorite because of the variety of trails, Oak woodlands, great vistas and proximity to my home. Borges Ranch and Howe Homestead are treasures to be protected and have been used well as education facilities.
9. It is a place to enjoy nature, to walk, to take the dog, and for complete peace and quiet.
10. Shell Ridge - I live on edge of this open space and consider it priceless for myself and my kids not to mention the whole of Walnut Creek.
11. Off-leash for the dog so she can get a lot of exercise. Beautiful hiking areas
12. Shell Ridge for diversity of trails and acreage, views, maintenance of trails and access is good. Same with Lime Ridge. Others not as familiar.
13. Shell Ridge for the choice and variation of trails and scenery.
14. preservation of natural beauty of area
15. Shell Ridge via access of Synder Lane. Trails allow some up, down, flat with great views and sometimes encounters with wildlife(coyote, hawks, various other bird species) Also like Lime Ridge during the winter time as trails are not as muddy and buckeyes are beautiful!
16. I horseback ride (primarily) and hike the Shell Ridge trails thru to Diablo Foothills and Mt Diablo State Parks; entry point Hanna Grove gate off Comistas. I love the untouched wildness: oaks, streams, coyotes, bobcats, great horned owls, eagles---we have it all and it's less than a half mile out my door! Our trails are up and down and winding---with vistas around every turn. It's peaceful and regenerative to be so close to nature. The quiet is spectacular.
17. Shell Ridge, best diversity of habitat with trails that are shaded, wonderful oaks, and rocky outcrops + the old quarries.
18. Trails off Hannah Grove gate as I can ride my horse there and access the full mountain. I live very close to the Northgate kiosk but there is no safe way for me to get my horse up there.
19. Shell Ridge. Have enjoyed this area for the entire 40 years of residence
20. Pine Canyon; Ginder Gap area, wall Point
21. The entire Open Space is beautiful. The views, the oaks, the wild grasses -- the small animals that frequent the area, the hawks, etc.
22. Shell ridge, because it is close to my house and because it provides an undeveloped gateway to Mt. Diablo State Park.

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23. Shell Ridge trails for dog walking and scenic beauty
24. The trails throughout which provides great recreation for all of the residents. The connection to both EBRPD and State Parks land creating 20k + acres of open space.
25. Sugar Loaf because it's next door!
26. I can walk a few yards and have a wilderness experience. I can't even tell I am in a dense urban area.
27. We love the Shell Ridge trails. There are plenty of different trails with a fabulous variety of scenery.
28. Lime Ridge, north and south, hiking and walking trails
29. I like the relatively untouched feel to the open space areas - i.e. not developed.
30. Lime Ridge area.... very diverse bird & animal life
31. Shell Ridge. I like its access to and views of Mt. Diablo. Also appreciate the ability to let my dog go unleashed.
32. Ridge Trail in Shell Ridge Open Space
33. twin ponds, creek trail, ridge trail
34. Having an area in busy Walnut Creek in which an area has been preserved for enjoying nature. It's quiet and has been used as intended thus far. The views from the ridges are also a treat.
35. Shell Ridge trails, views, solitude
36. open space, beauty
37. Twin Ponds Loop. I like the variety of the terrain and the hilliness.
38. Lime Ridge, trails to top. Riparian trails at Shell Ridge.
39. Present easy access from different locations. Like to ruggedness and 'unkempt' feeling, so we can truly appreciate the seasons and changes due to rain, and temperature. I love that I feel a million miles away from 'the world' when I'm out in the open space.
40. Ridge trails, because of the views
41. Shell Ridge and Lime Ridge. The views and the wildflowers
42. Shell Ridge because it is close to home and I like the views from there
43. Peaceful and interesting places to walk
44. Shell Ridge. Proximity to my house.
45. Excellent job done recently on upgrade of Sugarloaf- would like to see same done in Shell ridge
46. Southerland access to Shell Ridge provides a variety of trails from almost level to steep so a route can be chosen to match one's desires and ability.
47. Shell Ridge - variety of habitats and wide open vistas
48. Shell Ridge creek areas and hilltops for views, and for varied wildflower and bird sightings.
49. The wildness of them, and the fact that unlike the parks they are not filled with people.
50. Shell Ridge - diversity of habitat (ridgetops, creeks, Deer Lake) & beauty, wildlife; opportunities to exercise my Australian shepherd off leash in peaceful, wild terrain on hikes of 1-4 hours. Acalanes Ridge (the small parcel parallel to Oakvale Rd)--It's near my home & I can walk there w/o using the car. Enjoy the vistas & wildlife. Can make a 40 minute loop from through the neighborhood & up the ridge & back.
51. All the trails, readily accessible trailheads, off leash for dogs, good maps at trailheads.
52. I love the diversity of the terrain. Single track trails are the best way to explore the area and to have a chance to observe the birds, coyotes and the plants.
53. Permanent Open Space available for everyone's use - never compromised by building OR revenue generating income need to get rid of the cattle grazing!
54. The quarry areas in Shell Ridge and Lime Ridge have different flora. I appreciate the varied natural habitats with oaks, wildflowers and grasslands. I enjoy wildlife watching and the great views in the.
55. Ridge line of Shell Ridge for the view. Back side of Shell ridge for the peacefulness. Multiple trails in generally good shape

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56. I appreciate the openness, quietness, the ability to take our grandchildren on ""adventure walks"" without a crowd of people. My grandchildren are able to see the cows roaming, we've spotted wild animals and saw the pond full of frogs.
57. All the open trails have there own beauty, the beauty that each season brings to the various trails
58. I love taking the dogs up in the lime ridge area where they and I can enjoy peace nature and the beauty. Watching the wildlife is provides great renewal of the soul and I love the peaceful tranquil feeling of watching the grazing of the cows.
59. Sugar Loaf It is very close to where I live, and has a lot of trails and views
60. Easy access for elders to close-in areas on low land at Sugar Loaf. Connection from Sugarloaf to city parks.
61. Shell Ridge is my favorite because it is large enough to explore and ""get lost"" in. However, I use Sugarloaf often because it is so close to where I live.
62. Having areas that are pretty close to ""natural"" are really important to me - the walking/running trails at Shell Ridge are great and I see so many nice people & pets.
63. NATURE AND PEACEFULNESS TO THE AREAS
64. Shell Ridge for morning walks
65. ridge top trails
66. Shell Ridge because it is close and I can walk my dog off leash.
67. Sugarloaf - it is closest to my home
68. Shell Ridge benches under trees looking our on scenic vistas -- good place for a sandwich, contemplation, enjoyment.
69. I love Shell Ridge. I walk my dog there every day ---regardless of weather. It is a beautiful, peaceful place and I feel lucky to live close to such a resource.
70. Trails for walking the dog for exercise. Seeing Mt. Diablo, oak trees, ducks, turkeys, the changes of the seasons.
71. Year-round pond in Shell Ridge (for dog swimming)
72. Ridge Top Trail Castle Rock Trail, Buckeye Ravine Trail, Summit Ridge, Fossil Hill Access to Mt. Diablo trails Enjoy views, trees, shrubs wild flowers, solitude
73. I like getting out and getting some fresh air. It's a nice break from my heavy homework load.
74. I like running with friends occasionally, (emphasis on occasionally)
75. I like the quiet so that I can get away from cars. Cars bug me when they're are like a million (everyday life) so it's great to get away and clear my head.
76. ridge top trail and twin ponds trails in shell ridge. The former because you are often above the birds. The latter because it has open areas, hill, and wooded areas.
77. The quiet less used trails where I hike with my dog. We like ponds in the summer so she can cool off. I like the ridge trails where there are great views. I like to observed the hawks, eagles and falcons who live in the open space. Lucky viewings of other wild critters are also a treat.
78. The Lime Shell Ridge area because I love the trails back there, and as a little kid, I loved hiking to the ponds and such, and seeing the animal life.
79. Shell ridge, because it has some absolutely beautiful trails. The Ridge Top trail in the northwest end of the space has amazing views! I also like the Indian Creek trail and any trail that is mostly for hikers, although I find many bicyclists willfully disregard the bicycle area use restrictions.
80. I like getting away from the urban landscape and enjoying the fresh air and the beautiful scenery. It is nice to meditate and reflect on my life in the open space.
81. Shell Ridge Open Space, picnic tables and resting benches, creeks, shady trees, dog-friendly trails with plastic bags for picking up waste
82. sometimes, my friends and I will go up to the open space and hike or take a walk. i really enjoy walking on the trails. the open space gives my friends and i something to do on a nice day when we're bored.

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83. Mostly Shell Ridge because it's close to home: Coyote Pond, Indian Creek Trail, Willow Spring Pond, Ginder Cap Trail, Twin Ponds, Quail Restoration sites, Deer Lake.
84. Any area where there are buckeye trees. Reasons: spectacular scenes of natural lands, great hiking trails. The Open Space is a treasure and a privilege for us to enjoy, not an entitlement. We need to protect it and nurture it.
85. I like the view of shell ridge from Northgate High School. It is beautiful, and one can obtain an excellent view the city from the hills.
86. I like the entire open Space because there is a lot to do. I always have fun.
87. Ridge trail in Shell Ridge. Great views, physically challenging, defines oak growth on the north side etc. b) Lime Ridge (south) area leading up to summit from golf course. Varied growth, interesting wildlife etc.
88. i love the ponds because they are pretty and you can see all the tad poles and frogs.
89. The generally unobstructed views; the wildflowers in the springtime, and the wildlife.
90. Shell Ridge - all the pond areas, especially Bullfrog pond---wildlife Wildflowers - all the areas
91. It feels like I'm out in the country and I'm only a few blocks from town. Shell Ridge is the area I use on a daily basis for exercise and to relax.
92. large open areas, small trails through the woods, natural un-enhanced foothills
93. Acalanes because its close by. Other areas because of the visual benefit...like living in a busy and vibrant city, but be able to look up to the hills and see the quiet countryside so close by
94. ponds, to teach kids about water ecosystem, tadpoles.- crest trails for their views. -
95. I like to walk my dog and bird watch on the trails in Shell Ridge.
96. I like the vistas, the sense of space and peace, the trees and native flowers. And I like having all this available so close to town.
97. Historic sites, open ridges, views, wildlife, wildflowers
98. Shell Ridge diversity; Acalanes accessibility
99. The trail section between Sutherland and end of Walnut Blvd on the lee side of the hill - beautiful grotto-like spot. Also, the connections to Diablo Foothills and Mt. Diablo, a huge outdoor expanse to enjoy
100. Twin Ponds Loop area, Shell Ridge-Indian Creek, Briones-Mt. Diablo Trail through to State Park
101. Mount Diablo, Shell Ridge

7.) What changes would make the Open Space more useful to you?

1. I would like to see some additional single-track for mountain bikers only. The current fire roads are wonderful and appreciate the access to them. However, I and many of my fellow cyclists long for the same privileges that our fellow trail runners, hikers, and horsemen have and that is access to many single-track trails that lead to areas that provide solitude, extraordinary views of the surrounding areas, and trail challenges that support a healthy lifestyle through invigorating exercise. I believe sustainable trails can be built and maintained specific to usage by cyclists. This added element to our open spaces would enhance its usage, provide some equality in trail access to the various user groups and provide some separation between the various user groups.
2. I would like some more trails.
3. Well maintained trails for running and biking, as well as more access points to the open space. As it stands, there are way too many hazardous places for bicycles in the Open Space.
4. I would like to see more trails opened to cyclists, specifically single-track access. I would also like to see more trails constructed in a manner that will limit erosion and destruction to the indigenous vegetation and wildlife.
5. Better access to Shell Ridge trail system near center of Walnut Creek, perhaps from Ygnacio Valley Road at La Casa Via and the Canal trail system.
6. None, maybe updated trail maps.
7. Perfect the way they are!
8. I think that the cows do more damage than any other use, and would like to see them eliminated.

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9. Adding trails to connect lower west side area of sugar loaf to main ridge trail
10. Not allow cattle grazing. They ruin the trails, poop everywhere, eat the wildflowers, ruin the few water features, to name a few. If cattle grazing ""has to"" occur, be very watchful of overgrazing and high impact to features I mentioned above.
11. Less change. Ensuring that the new development bordering the open space respects Access rights. If possible (hard to enforce, I know), educate dog owners on what ""voice control"" really means. so the dogs aren't off chasing people, deer or horses. Most folks are great---but there have been a few out walking one or more dogs without a leash (and they have no leash with them) and the dogs are NOT in control.
12. I would like to see the city continue to help fund the WCOSF and other organizations which help to educate the public as to the importance in maintaining our natural surroundings; planting grasses, oaks, educating the public regarding populations of native plants and animals. More signs regarding regulations, i.e. stop mountain bikers on single track trails, more patrols by rangers and volunteers to help limit poor trail selection and educate trail use in a positive manner.
13. See #6. I would like the city to prioritize safe trail access. When one is in the ""open space"" it is difficult to know which is city land, which is EBRPD land, and what is state park. This should be seamless and if the city can provide safe access, everyone! benefits. The city is in effect the access provider to all of the land.
14. Access to open space from horse facilities on Northgate Rd. If we cannot ride to them we cannot enjoy the wonderful trails. There are few, if any, trailer-in parking sites.
15. more parking near trailheads
16. Leave just as it is
17. Let's have no more building of McMansions up close, please. What the City did with the Bank of Stockton was a disgrace. Originally the homes were to be directly behind existing homes in front of the Oerth property but the then City Attorney let them move the sites 400 feet up,(without a hearing) destroying a trail, engendering our lawsuit, and encroaching right into the Open Space. Stop.
18. Better control over trails. Too many people cut switchbacks and it degrades the overall beauty of the trail system. Sometimes the use trails are a better route than the original planned routes, but even so, one best route should be decided upon and degraded alternate routes should be restored to natural conditions.
19. Improve gates- make them easier to open on horseback. Enforce dog leash laws. Convene user group meetings, segregated by constituencies-- e.g., bikers, horse riders, runners, etc.
20. Opening up ridge trails to bikers and possibly looking at a system of specific use trails, i.e. equestrian, hiker, biker. We all pay through property tax assessment so access should be equal. Limit spring/early summer trail grading. Last year the trails were graded in June which left them in a very loose condition and susceptible to more rain erosion this winter.
21. Retirement will allow me to spend more time in the Open Space!
22. Well if I didn't have to work as much...
23. None, use it all the time now
24. try to leave them as natural as possible
25. I like it the way it is
26. none.
27. Limit commercial use, such as horse back tours with too many horses. Please do not allow cars in the open space.
28. More single tracks to be opened to mountain bikes. The same equality as the horses, even though the bikes don't damage the trails like the horses do.
29. Keep the cattle off Twin Ponds Loop.
30. Enforce regulations to keep mountain bikers off trails. This would not require much time as the illegal bikers are regulars. Reduce or eliminate cattle grazing which destroys habitat. Emphasize conservation. We have enough dog parks and don't need to make trails into mountain bike playgrounds.

